

Table of Contents

PART I. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES	1
CHAPTER 1. ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE—IN GENERAL.....	1
§ 1:1 Analysis of current disciplinary trends in New Jersey	
§ 1:2 Administrative disciplinary bodies	
§ 1:3 Disciplinary codes of conduct	
§ 1:4 Automatic disbarment and suspensions from practice	
§ 1:5 Range of Discipline—In general	
§ 1:6 Governing rules of court	
§ 1:7 The impact of CLE ethics instruction on attorney discipline	
CHAPTER 2. PREPARING A DEFENSE	181
§ 2:1 Tactical and strategic planning: the five-step analysis	
§ 2:2 Life cycle of an attorney disciplinary case	
§ 2:3 Pre-inquiry phase	
§ 2:4 Inquiry phase	
§ 2:5 Grievance phase	
§ 2:6 Complaint phase	
§ 2:7 Hearing phase	
§ 2:8 Appellate phase—Disciplinary Review Board	
§ 2:9 —The Supreme Court	
§ 2:10 Acquittals—Introduction	
§ 2:11 Preparing a client for discipline—Introduction	
CHAPTER 3. THE ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY PROCESS	209
§ 3:1 Introduction	
§ 3:2 Office of attorney ethics	
§ 3:3 District ethics committees	
§ 3:4 Initial inquiry screening and evaluation by secretary	
§ 3:5 Investigation of docketed grievances—Confidentiality	
§ 3:6 Duty to cooperate	
§ 3:7 Failure to cooperate or provide requested documents— The <i>Atlas</i> letter	

- § 3:8 Defaults from a failure to file an answer
- § 3:9 Completion of investigation—Written report
- § 3:10 Diversion from the disciplinary system—Minor misconduct
- § 3:11 Confidentiality during investigative phase
- § 3:12 Demand interview
- § 3:13 Service of formal complaint and answer
- § 3:14 Failure to answer a formal complaint
- § 3:15 Right to counsel
- § 3:16 Discovery
- § 3:17 Discipline by consent
- § 3:18 Public proceedings
- § 3:19 Conduct of the hearing
- § 3:20 The Disciplinary Review Board
- § 3:21 The Disciplinary Review Board Annual Report
- § 3:22 Petition for review
- § 3:23 Sample petitions for review
- § 3:24 Constitutional challenges—Rule 1:20-16(f)
- § 3:25 Conclusion

CHAPTER 4. ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY MEASURES 281

- § 4:1 Payment of administrative costs and expenses—Rule 1:20-17

A. MINOR MISCONDUCT

- § 4:2 Minor misconduct defined
- § 4:3 Public admonition
- § 4:4 Diversion from the attorney disciplinary system

B. PUBLIC REPRIMANDS AND CENSURES

- § 4:5 Public reprimand generally
- § 4:6 —Censure—Generally

C. SUSPENSION FROM PRACTICE

- § 4:7 Suspension from Practice and Compliance with Rule 1:20-20
- § 4:8 Probation, community service and suspension of suspension
- § 4:9 Accelerated discipline in drug cases and voluntary suspension from practice
- § 4:10 Reinstatement to practice following suspension—Rule 1:20-21 with sample certification supporting petition

TABLE OF CONTENTS

D. DISBARMENT

- § 4:11 Automatic and discretionary disbarment—In general
- § 4:12 Automatic disbarment
- § 4:13 High probability of disbarment
- § 4:14 Failure to appear in response to an order to show cause
- § 4:15 Subsequent admission in other jurisdictions
- § 4:16 Indeterminate suspension

E. OTHER FORMS OF ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

- § 4:17 Re-admission to practice following disbarment
- § 4:18 Monetary sanctions
- § 4:19 Discipline by consent
- § 4:20 Publication of opinion
- § 4:21 Revocation of license to practice law
- § 4:22 Suspension of right to appear *pro hac vice*
- § 4:23 Discipline with conditions
- § 4:24 Agreement in lieu of discipline—Rule 1:20-3(i)(2)(B)

CHAPTER 4A. DIGEST OF DRB RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE 353

§ 4A:1 Introduction

A. LEGAL FEES

- § 4A:2 Failure to have a written fee agreement
- § 4A:3 Excessive fees, unethical business transactions and trust account violations

B. TRUST ACCOUNT FUNDS

- § 4A:4 Dishonesty, fraud and commingling funds
- § 4A:5 Negligent misappropriation of entrusted funds
- § 4A:6 Failure to promptly disburse funds
- § 4A:7 Failure to promptly deliver funds
- § 4A:8 Improper disposition of escrow funds
- § 4A:9 Commingling personal and client funds
- § 4A:10 Failure to adequately supervise employees
- § 4A:11 Failure to safeguard funds

C. ATTORNEY—CLIENT RELATIONS

- § 4A:12 Misrepresentations to a client
- § 4A:13 Lack of diligence and failure to communicate with a client

- § 4A:14 Abandoning clients—Suspension and disbarment cases.
- § 4A:15 —Reprimand case
- § 4A:16 Conflicts of interest—Reprimand cases
- § 4A:17 —Admonition cases
- § 4A:18 Loans transactions with a client
- § 4A:19 Failure to adequately communicate (Admonition cases)

D. NEGLIGENCE AND LACK OF DILIGENCE

- § 4A:20 Multiple RPC violations involving numerous clients
- § 4A:21 Pattern of neglect, pattern of neglect and lack of diligence
- § 4A:22 Gross negligence and neglect of multiple clients—One-year suspension cases
- § 4A:23 Gross neglect & lack of diligence—Default cases
- § 4A:24 Gross negligence and neglect of multiple clients—Reduced discipline

E. REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS

- § 4A:25 Real estate closings—Deceitful conduct

F. CRIMINAL CONDUCT

- § 4A:26 Assaultive conduct—Non domestic violence
- § 4A:27 —Domestic violence
- § 4A:28 Assault by auto—Minor injuries
- § 4A:29 —Death or serious bodily injuries
- § 4A:30 Sexual assault—Child victims
- § 4A:31 Offensive touching—Teenage client
- § 4A:32 Sexual proposal—Vulnerable client
- § 4A:33 Misprision of felony
- § 4A:34 Structuring cash deposits to avoid reporting requirements
- § 4A:35 Failure to file tax returns
- § 4A:36 Fraud and theft of non-client funds
- § 4A:37 Eluding police and obstructing administration of law

G. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

- § 4A:38 Practicing law while ineligible—Admonition cases
- § 4A:39 Practicing law while ineligible with no bona fide office—Reprimand cases
- § 4A:40 Practicing law while ineligible with other violations or ethics history—Reprimand cases

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 4A:41 Unauthorized practice of law
- § 4A:42 Practicing law in jurisdictions where attorney is not licensed
- § 4A:43 Rule 1:20-20 violations—Practicing while suspended
- § 4A:44 Failure to comply with Rule 1:20-20
- § 4A:45 *[Reserved]*
- § 4A:46 Bar admissions—Failure to comply with conditions of admission
- § 4A:47 Misleading letterhead or firm name

H. MISCONDUCT IN THE COURTROOM

- § 4A:48 Failure to disclose material fact to a tribunal
- § 4A:49 Lack of candor
- § 4A:50 Discourteous conduct toward the tribunal
- § 4A:51 RPC 3.1—F frivolous litigation
- § 4A:52 RPC 3.4(c)—Knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal

I. ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

- § 4A:53 Failure to cooperate with disciplinary system
- § 4A:54 Assisting a disbarred attorney
- § 4A:55 Lying to ethics authorities

J. FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS

- § 4A:56 Submitting false expenses and billing records

K. IMPROPER COMMUNICATIONS

- § 4A:57 Communications with a represented party—RPC 4.2

L. FAILURE TO PROMPTLY DELIVER FUNDS

- § 4A:58 Failure to promptly deliver entrusted funds—RPC 1.15(d) and Rule 1:21-6

M. FAILURE TO PROPERLY SUPERVISE NON-LAWYERS EMPLOYED BY THE ATTORNEY

- § 4A:59 Supervision of non-lawyers employed by the attorney—RPC 5:3(a).

N. KNOWING MISREPRESENTATIONS TO A TRIBUNAL—R.P.C. 3.3(a)(5)

- § 4A:60 Candor before the tribunal—RPC 3.3(a).

O. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COURT ORDERS

- § 4A:61 Candor before the tribunal—Failure to comply with
law court orders—Reprimand cases

PART II. CRIMINAL CONDUCT.....

437

CHAPTER 5. CRIMINAL CONDUCT—IN GENERAL.....

437

- § 5:1 Introduction
§ 5:2 Assault by auto—Minor injuries
§ 5:3 —Death or serious bodily injuries
§ 5:4 Eluding police and obstructing administration of law
§ 5:5 Conclusion

CHAPTER 6. MISAPPROPRIATION OF ENTRUSTED FUNDS.....

449

- § 6:1 Introduction
§ 6:2 Knowing misappropriation of client funds—*In re
Wilson*
§ 6:3 Reconsideration of permanent disbarment rule—*In re
Wade*
§ 6:4 Knowing misuse of escrow funds—*In re Hollendonner*
§ 6:5 Misappropriation of law firm funds—Impact of *In re
Sigman*
§ 6:6 —*Cases prior to In re Sigman*
§ 6:7 Negligent Misappropriations
§ 6:8 Dishonesty, fraud and commingling funds
§ 6:9 Negligent misappropriation of entrusted funds
§ 6:10 Failure to promptly disburse funds
§ 6:11 Failure to promptly deliver funds
§ 6:12 Improper disposition of escrow funds
§ 6:13 Commingling personal and client funds
§ 6:14 Failure to adequately supervise employees
§ 6:15 Failure to safeguard funds
§ 6:16 Conclusion

CHAPTER 7. DRUG OFFENSES.....

499

- § 7:1 Introduction
§ 7:2 Simple possession cases
§ 7:3 Accelerated discipline
§ 7:4 *[Reserved]*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 7:5	Non-suspension cases—Extraordinary rehabilitation efforts
§ 7:6	In re Filomeno—DRB opinion
§ 7:7	In re Filomeno—Supreme Court disciplinary order
§ 7:8	Drug abuse cases
§ 7:9	Drug-related fraudulent practices
§ 7:10	Drug distribution cases
§ 7:11	Survey of discipline imposed in drug cases

CHAPTER 8. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.... 525

§ 8:1	Introduction
§ 8:2	The rule of <i>Magid</i> and <i>Principato</i>
§ 8:3	Cases resulting in suspension
§ 8:4	Conclusion
§ 8:5	Assaultive conduct—Non domestic violence
§ 8:6	—Domestic violence

CHAPTER 9. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT... 535

§ 9:1	Introduction
§ 9:2	Sexual Contacts with clients—In general
§ 9:3	Direct sexual contacts with clients—Criminal misconduct
§ 9:4	In re Liebowitz—Text of opinion
§ 9:5	Direct sexual contacts with non-clients—Criminal misconduct
§ 9:6	Sex offenses against children
§ 9:7	Child pornography
§ 9:8	Domestic violence
§ 9:9	Consensual Sexual Relations
§ 9:10	Sexual harassment
§ 9:11	Sexual harassment and discrimination—Official policy
§ 9:12	Policy on sexual harassment
§ 9:13	Policy against discrimination based on gender identity or expression
§ 9:14	Policy against discrimination based on affectional or sexual orientation
§ 9:15	Policy on consensual dating in the workplace
§ 9:16	Policy on racial/ethnic bias, harassment, and hostile work environment
§ 9:17	Sexual assault—Child victims
§ 9:18	Offensive touching—Teenage client
§ 9:19	Sexual proposal—Vulnerable client

CHAPTER 10. PERJURY AND FALSE SWEARING	561
§ 10:1 Introduction	
§ 10:2 Improper use of <i>jurat</i>	
§ 10:3 Public and business documents	
§ 10:4 Cases involving malpractice	
§ 10:5 Cases involving self-enrichment	
§ 10:6 Perjury and subornation of perjury	
§ 10:7 Misprision of felony	
§ 10:8 Conclusion	
 CHAPTER 11. ARSON	 575
§ 11:1 Introduction	
§ 11:2 Arson related to the practice of law	
§ 11:3 Arson unrelated to the practice of law	
§ 11:4 Conclusion	
 CHAPTER 12. BRIBERY	 581
§ 12:1 Introduction	
§ 12:2 The rule of <i>In re Hughes</i>	
§ 12:3 Disbarment cases following <i>In re Hughes</i>	
§ 12:4 Cases where no disbarment ordered	
§ 12:5 Conclusion	
 CHAPTER 13. TAX OFFENSES	 589
§ 13:1 Introduction	
§ 13:2 Failure to file tax return cases—Introduction	
§ 13:3 Early cases—Mitigating factors	
§ 13:4 —Aggravating factors	
§ 13:5 Cases from 1973 to 1990—Suspension term	
§ 13:6 Cases since 1990—Six-month suspension term	
§ 13:7 Conclusion	
§ 13:8 Income tax evasion—Introduction	
§ 13:9 Disbarment cases	
§ 13:10 Suspension cases	
§ 13:11 Conclusion	
§ 13:12 Trustee taxes	
§ 13:13 Bribery and conspiracy	
§ 13:14 Structuring cash deposits to avoid reporting requirements	
§ 13:15 Failure to file tax returns	
 CHAPTER 14. FORGERY	 605
§ 14:1 Introduction—the <i>Yacavino</i> rule	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 14:2	Cases prior to <i>In re Yacavino</i>	
§ 14:3	The rule of <i>In re Yacavino</i>	
§ 14:4	<i>[Reserved]</i>	
§ 14:5	Cases after <i>In re Yacavino</i>	
§ 14:6	Forgeries in real estate closings	
§ 14:7	Cases resulting in three-year suspensions	
§ 14:8	Case resulting in disbarment	
§ 14:9	Conclusion	
CHAPTER 15. DRUNK DRIVING.....		613
§ 15:1	Drunk driving—Introduction	
§ 15:2	—Homicide	
§ 15:3	—Serious bodily injury	
§ 15:4	—Bodily injury	
§ 15:5	—Other companion indictable offenses	
§ 15:6	Introduction	
§ 15:7	Municipal prosecutors	
§ 15:8	Defense attorneys	
§ 15:9	Conclusion	
CHAPTER 16. FRAUD, THEFT AND EXTORTION		621
§ 16:1	Introduction	
§ 16:2	The public servant cases—Introduction	
§ 16:3	The judge cases	
§ 16:4	The prosecutor cases— <i>In re Farr</i>	
§ 16:5	— <i>In re Hoerst</i>	
§ 16:6	— <i>In re Asbell</i>	
§ 16:7	Unknown or unidentifiable victims	
§ 16:8	Continuing or prolonged fraud or theft	
§ 16:9	Substantial mitigating factors	
§ 16:10	Extortion cases	
§ 16:11	Real estate closings—False statement on RESPA form	
§ 16:12	—Equity stripping	
§ 16:13	Fraud and theft of non-client funds	
CHAPTER 17. HOMICIDE.....		647
§ 17:1	Introduction	
§ 17:2	Murder	
§ 17:3	Manslaughter and death by auto	
§ 17:4	Conclusion	

CHAPTER 18. CRIMINAL SOLICITATION 651

- § 18:1 Introduction
- § 18:2 Misconduct prior to In re Verdiramo—Fee extraction cases
- § 18:3 —Solicitation to commit murder
- § 18:4 —Solicitation to commit bribery
- § 18:5 The rule of In re Verdiramo
- § 18:6 *[Reserved]*
- § 18:7 Conclusion

PART III. ADMINISTRATIVE AND REGULATORY VIOLATIONS 663

CHAPTER 19. INTRODUCTION 663

- § 19:1 Introduction

CHAPTER 20. ADMISSION TO PRACTICE 667

- § 20:1 Introduction
- § 20:2 Presumptions of unfitness for admission
- § 20:3 *Matthew's Rule*—Burden of proof
- § 20:4 —Evidence of reform and rehabilitation
- § 20:5 —Reconsideration of candidate's qualifications
- § 20:6 —Introduction
- § 20:7 —Authority to admit to practice
- § 20:8 —Independent findings of fact
- § 20:9 —Requirement of good moral character
- § 20:10 —Burden of production and burden of proof
- § 20:11 Evidence of lack of good character
- § 20:12 Evidence of reform and rehabilitation
- § 20:13 *Matthew's Rule*—Reapplication for admission
- § 20:14 In re Matthews
- § 20:15 Subsequent cases—Denial of admission to practice
- § 20:16 —Grant of admission to practice
- § 20:17 Misrepresentations discovered after admission to practice

CHAPTER 21. CONDUCT BEFORE A TRIBUNAL 697

- § 21:1 Introduction

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. DISRUPTIVE AND CONTEMPTUOUS CONDUCT

- § 21:2 “Tribunal” defined
- § 21:3 Standard of conduct
- § 21:4 Contempt of court—Introduction
- § 21:5 Statutory authority
- § 21:6 Authorized sanctions for contempt
- § 21:7 Contempt in the face of the court
- § 21:8 Indirect contempt of court
- § 21:9 Failure to appear
- § 21:10 Failure to pay
- § 21:11 Failure to comply with conditions of probation
- § 21:12 Abusive communications to court staff
- § 21:13 Alternatives to contempt proceedings
- § 21:14 Appeal of contempt findings
- § 21:15 Contempt of court—Subsequent attorney discipline
- § 21:16 Criminal contempt—Conclusive evidence of guilt

B. DISCIPLINE IMPOSED FOR CRIMINAL CONTEMPT

- § 21:17 Cases resulting in public reprimand
- § 21:18 Cases resulting in suspension
- § 21:19 Failure to disclose material fact to a tribunal
- § 21:20 Lack of candor
- § 21:21 Discourteous conduct toward the tribunal
- § 21:22 RPC 3.1—Frivolous litigation
- § 21:23 RPC 3.4(c)—Knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal
- § 21:24 Conclusion
- § 21:25 Cases resulting in reprimand or suspension—Introduction
- § 21:26 Confrontations with the judge during trial
- § 21:27 Failure to appear for scheduled court event
- § 21:28 Cases resulting in disbarment

C. CANDOR TOWARD THE TRIBUNAL

- § 21:29 Introduction
- § 21:30 Orders of the court
- § 21:31 Lying to the judge
- § 21:32 Failure to disclose a material fact
- § 21:33 Communications with other parties
- § 21:34 Conclusion

CHAPTER 22. UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW	751
§ 22:1	Introduction
§ 22:2	Practice during period of suspension
§ 22:3	Legal fees payable to suspended or disbarred attorneys
§ 22:4	Practicing law while ineligible due to non-payment of annual attorney registration fees
§ 22:5	Failure to maintain a <i>bona fide</i> law office
§ 22:6	Practicing law in a professional corporation without maintaining professional liability insurance as required under Rule 1:21-1A(a)(3)
§ 22:7	Practicing law without appropriate supervision
§ 22:8	Continuing to represent a client after being disqualified from so doing
§ 22:9	Disability inactive status
§ 22:10	Under prior suspension from the Supreme Court
§ 22:11	Under suspension based upon reciprocal discipline
§ 22:12	Unauthorized practice of law in another state by a New Jersey attorney
§ 22:13	Improper appearance <i>pro hac vice</i>
§ 22:14	Disqualifying employment
§ 22:15	Practice during period of suspension—Cases resulting in disbarment
§ 22:16	Allowing a non-attorney to practice law—Agents and employees
§ 22:17	—Foreign legal consultants
§ 22:18	Contempt of court
§ 22:19	Splitting legal fees with lay persons
§ 22:20	Practicing law while ineligible—Admonition cases
§ 22:21	Practicing law while ineligible with no bona fide office—Reprimand cases
§ 22:22	Practicing law while ineligible with other violations or ethics history—Reprimand cases
§ 22:23	Unauthorized practice of law
§ 22:24	Practicing law in jurisdictions where attorney is not licensed
§ 22:25	Rule 1:20-20 violations—Practicing while suspended
§ 22:26	Failure to comply with Rule 1:20-20
§ 22:27	Bar admissions—Failure to comply with conditions of admission
§ 22:28	Misleading letterhead or firm name
§ 22:29	Index to the opinions of the Advisory Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 23. FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT	791
§ 23:1 Governing statutes	
§ 23:2 Governing rule	
§ 23:3 Child support—In general	
§ 23:4 Suspension of license to practice law	
§ 23:5 Restoration of license to practice law	
§ 23:6 Conclusion	
CHAPTER 24. RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE	813
§ 24:1 Reciprocal discipline—Generally	
§ 24:2 Disbarment	
§ 24:3 Misappropriation of law firm funds—The self-help defense	
§ 24:4 Reciprocal discipline for judges	
§ 24:5 Conclusion	
CHAPTER 25. ATTORNEY ADVERTISING	829
§ 25:1 Introduction	
§ 25:2 Applicable rules of professional conduct	
§ 25:3 Targeted direct mail solicitations	
§ 25:4 Personal solicitation of clients—Introduction	
§ 25:5 Personal solicitations by “runners”	
§ 25:6 Personal solicitations by attorneys	
§ 25:7 Radio and television advertising	
§ 25:8 —Internet advertising	
§ 25:9 CAA OPINION 1—Foreign law corporation practicing as a partnership in N.J.	
§ 25:10 CAA OPINION 2—Disapproval of name containing the word “associates”	
§ 25:11 CAA OPINION 3—Billboard advertising	
§ 25:12 CAA OPINION 4—Telephone directory advertising by areas of practice	
§ 25:13 CAA OPINION 5—Law firm practicing under different names in different locations within the state	
§ 25:14 CAA OPINION 6—Attorney membership and participation in joint advertising/client referral programs	
§ 25:15 CAA OPINION 7—Communicating expertise in a field of practice	
§ 25:16 CAA OPINION 8—Quoting the statement of another	

- which, if made by an attorney, would be considered false or misleading
- § 25:17 CAA OPINION 9—Advertising results obtained in personal injury matters—Structured settlements
- § 25:18 CAA OPINION 10—Law firm name: additional identifying language
- § 25:19 CAA OPINION 11—Targeted direct-mail solicitation letters: homeowners’ association inviting attorney to contact property owners
- § 25:20 CAA OPINION 12—Targeted direct-mail solicitation letters: specific events
- § 25:21 CAA OPINION 13—Attorney participation in commercial cooperative advertising programs
- § 25:22 CAA OPINION 14—Targeted direct-mail solicitation letters: improper terms and conditions of representation in property tax appeals
- § 25:23 CAA OPINION 15—Testimonials
- § 25:24 CAA OPINION 16—Paralegals—Identification on law firm letterhead or in advertisements
- § 25:25 CAA OPINION 17—“900” telephone numbers
- § 25:26 CAA OPINION 18—Alternative dispute resolution (Modifies Opinion 657)
- § 25:27 CAA OPINION 19—Bona fide offices
- § 25:28 CAA OPINION 20—Communicating specialization
- § 25:29 —Envelopes bearing printed messages
- § 25:30 CAA OPINION 21—Of counsel
- § 25:31 CAA OPINION 22—Communicating former service as municipal court judge
- § 25:32 CAA OPINION 23—Publishing columns on the law in local newspapers
- § 25:33 CAA OPINION 24—Communicating expertise and specialization (Supersedes Opinion 7)
- § 25:34 CAA OPINION 25—Living trusts
- § 25:35 CAA OPINION 27—Advertising presence of certified civil and certified criminal trial attorneys in firm
- § 25:36 CAA OPINION 28—“Affiliation” as description of relationship of law firms; fee sharing, mutual referrals, and confidentiality; communications concerning law firms’ service
- § 25:37 CAA OPINION 29—Written solicitation of clients charged in municipal courts
- § 25:38 CAA OPINION 30—Written solicitation to represent clients in bankruptcy
- § 25:39 CAA OPINION 31—Use of judicial photographs by attorneys
- § 25:40 CAA OPINION 32—Lawyers’ and law firms’ selection and advertising of internet domain names

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 25:41 CAA OPINION 33—Client endorsements and testimonials (Supersedes Opinion 15)
- § 25:42 CAA OPINION 34—Direct mail solicitation letters and conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice
- § 25:43 CAA OPINION 35—Solicitation of prospective clients who may already be represented by counsel
- § 25:44 CAA OPINION 36—Internet advertising and disclaiming impermissible lawyer referral service
- § 25:45 CAA OPINION 37—Creation and ownership of a wholly-owned subsidiary limited liability company or professional corporation to practice a specialized area of law by a law firm that is organized as a professional corporation
- § 25:46 CAA OPINION 38—Attorney participation with services offered by 1-800-U.S. lawyers referral service prohibited
- § 25:47 CAA OPINION 39—Advertisements touting designation as “Super Lawyer” or “Best Lawyer in America”
- § 25:48 CAA OPINION 40—Out-of-state lawyer employed in a New Jersey law firm office solely for practice of immigration law (Modifying Opinion 27)
- § 25:49 CAA OPINION 41—The *Bona Fide* office requirement and listing of offices on letterhead, websites, or other advertisements
- § 25:50 CAA OPINION 42—RPC 7.1—Comparing an attorney’s services with other attorneys’ services: permissible language when communicating inclusion in “Super Lawyers” and “Best Lawyers” lists or referring to membership in organizations such as “Million Dollar Advocates Forum”
- § 25:51 CAA OPINION 43—Internet advertising, misleading content, and impermissible referral services
- § 25:52 CAA Opinion 44—Lawyers participating in impermissible lawyer referral services and providing legal services for unregistered legal service plans—Avvo, LegalZoom, Rocket Lawyer, and similar companies
- § 25:53 CAA Opinion 45—Attorney advertisement claiming “Expertise” and “Specialization” in an area of law (superseding opinion 7)
- § 25:54 CAA Opinion 46—Geo-Fencing, Geo-Targeting, and Similar electronic advertising techniques

CHAPTER 26. EXTRAJUDICIAL STATEMENTS..... 979

- § 26:1 Introduction
- § 26:2 The rule of In re Hinds
- § 26:3 Attorneys who are subject to the rule
- § 26:4 The “reasonably likely” standard
- § 26:5 Other attorneys—The “clear and present danger” standard
- § 26:6 Application to criminal cases only
- § 26:7 Discipline imposed
- § 26:8 Subsequent decisions
- § 26:9 In re Rachmiel—Analysis
- § 26:10 Standard of proof—Rebuttable presumption
- § 26:11 Attorneys covered by the rule
- § 26:12 Discipline imposed

CHAPTER 26A. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS 993

- § 26A:1 Introduction
- § 26A:2 Index to ACPE opinions
- § 26A:3 ACPE rules of court

CHAPTER 27. COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS 1063

- § 27:1 Failure to cooperate with disciplinary system
- § 27:2 Assisting a disbarred attorney
- § 27:3 Lying to ethics authorities
- § 27:4 Agreement with grievant/client to drop an ethics case—ACPE 721
- § 27:5 Consideration of uncharged violations as an aggravating factor
- § 27:6 Progressive discipline for repeat offenders

CHAPTER 28. PERSONAL MISCONDUCT 1071

- § 28:1 Introduction
- § 28:2 Part of the public record—Criminal misconduct
- § 28:3 Committed in a public place
- § 28:4 Notorious private misconduct
- § 28:5 *[Reserved]*
- § 28:6 Touches upon professional responsibilities
- § 28:7 *[Reserved]*
- § 28:8 *[Reserved]*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 28:9 Conclusion

**PART IV. ATTORNEY AND CLIENT
RELATIONS..... 1079**

**CHAPTER 29. NEGLIGENCE AND
NEGLECT..... 1079**

- § 29:1 Introduction
- § 29:2 Gross negligence
- § 29:3 Pattern of negligence or neglect defined
- § 29:4 Pattern of negligence constituting fraud
- § 29:5 Reasonable diligence—Introduction
- § 29:6 Diligence in preparation for trial
- § 29:7 Diligence in preparation for appeal
- § 29:8 Discipline in other diligence cases
- § 29:9 Failure to communicate—Introduction
- § 29:10 Requests for information
- § 29:11 Informed decisions
- § 29:12 Client abandonment
- § 29:13 Misrepresentations to a client
- § 29:14 Lack of diligence and failure to communicate with a
client
- § 29:15 Abandoning clients—Suspension and disbarment
cases.
- § 29:16 —Reprimand case
- § 29:17 Conflicts of interest—Reprimand cases
- § 29:18 —Admonition cases
- § 29:19 Loans transactions with a client
- § 29:20 Failure to adequately communicate (Admonition
cases)
- § 29:21 Multiple RPC violations involving numerous clients
- § 29:22 Pattern of neglect, pattern of neglect and lack of
diligence
- § 29:23 Gross negligence and neglect of multiple clients—
One-year suspension cases
- § 29:24 Gross neglect & lack of diligence—Default cases
- § 29:25 Gross negligence and neglect of multiple clients—
Reduced discipline
- § 29:26 Conclusion

**CHAPTER 30. CONFLICTS OF
INTEREST..... 1105**

- § 30:1 Introduction

- § 30:2 Business transactions—In general
- § 30:3 Duties of the attorney
- § 30:4 Harm to the client—Cases resulting in disbarment
- § 30:5 Lack of harm to the client—Cases resulting in
reprimands and suspensions
- § 30:6 Other conflicts of interest
- § 30:7 Sexual relations between attorney and client
- § 30:8 Criminal sexual contact
- § 30:9 Sexual relations with a member of client’s family
- § 30:10 Elder abuse
- § 30:11 Communications with person represented by
counsel—R.P.C. 4.2—In re Robertelli

CHAPTER 31. LEGAL FEES AND EXPENSES 1123

- § 31:1 Introduction
- § 31:2 Fee sharing with non-lawyers
- § 31:3 Overreaching
- § 31:4 Unauthorized taking of fees and expenses
- § 31:5 Fee shifting
- § 31:6 Failure to have a written fee agreement
- § 31:7 Excessive fees, unethical business transactions and
trust account violations
- § 31:8 Submitting false expenses and billing records

PART V. DEFENSES AND MITIGATION 1133

CHAPTER 32. IN GENERAL..... 1133

- § 32:1 Introduction
- § 32:2 Defenses—In general—Discipline stemming from
criminal convictions
- § 32:3 — —Discipline stemming from other misconduct—
Proof of facts
- § 32:4 — —Defense of misappropriation cases
- § 32:5 Mitigation—In general
- § 32:6 —Automatic disbarment cases
- § 32:7 The mitigating evidence paradox
- § 32:8 Common mitigating factors—Introduction
- § 32:9 Performance of community service
- § 32:10 Passage of time
- § 32:11 Prior unblemished record
- § 32:12 Reputation and good character

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- § 32:13 Youth and inexperience
- § 32:14 No return to the practice of law
- § 32:15 Health, personal and emotional problems
- § 32:16 Misconduct was an aberration
- § 32:17 No personal gain
- § 32:18 Correction through treatment and rehabilitation

CHAPTER 33. DIMINISHED CAPACITY 1145

- § 33:1 Introduction
- § 33:2 The rule of *In re Jacob*—Introduction
- § 33:3 The *Jacob* standard as a defense
- § 33:4 The *Jacob* standard as mitigation
- § 33:5 *[Reserved]*
- § 33:6 *[Reserved]*
- § 33:7 The rule of *In re Templeton*—In general
- § 33:8 Correction through treatment
- § 33:9 *[Reserved]*
- § 33:10 Conclusion

CHAPTER 34. ALCOHOLISM 1157

- § 34:1 Introduction
- § 34:2 The rule of *In re Hein*
- § 34:3 *[Reserved]*
- § 34:4 Disbarment cases following *In re Hein*
- § 34:5 Suspension cases following *In re Hein*
- § 34:6 *[Reserved]*
- § 34:7 Conclusion

CHAPTER 35. DRUG ADDICTION 1163

- § 35:1 Introduction
- § 35:2 Misappropriation and crimes of dishonesty
- § 35:3 *[Reserved]*
- § 35:4 Drug addiction resulting in other crimes
- § 35:5 Drug crimes

CHAPTER 36. GAMBLING ADDICTION 1169

- § 36:1 Gambling addiction—In general
- § 36:2 Conclusion

APPENDIX A RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT 1173

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

RPC 1.0	Terminology
RPC 1.1	Competence
RPC 1.2	Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority Between Client and Lawyer
RPC 1.3	Diligence
RPC 1.4	Communication
RPC 1.5	Fees
RPC 1.6	Confidentiality of Information
RPC 1.7	Conflict of Interest: General Rule
RPC 1.8	Conflict of Interest: Current Clients: Specific Rules
RPC 1.9	Duties to Former Clients
RPC 1.10	Imputation of Conflicts of Interest: General Rule
RPC 1.11	Successive Government and Private Employment
RPC 1.12	Former Judge, Arbitrator, Mediator or Other Third- Party Neutral or Law Clerk
RPC 1.13	Organization as the Client
RPC 1.14	Client Under a Disability
RPC 1.15	Safekeeping Property
RPC 1.16	Declining or Terminating Representation
RPC 1.17	Sale of Law Practice
RPC 1.18	Prospective Client
RPC 2.1	Advisor
RPC 2.2	(Reserved)
RPC 2.3	Evaluation for Use by Third Persons
RPC 2.4	Lawyer Serving as Third-Party Neutral
RPC 3.1	Meritorious Claims and Contentions
RPC 3.2	Expediting Litigation
RPC 3.3	Candor Toward the Tribunal
RPC 3.4	Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel
RPC 3.5	Impartiality and Decorum of the Tribunal
RPC 3.6	Trial Publicity
RPC 3.7	Lawyer as Witness
RPC 3.8	Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor
RPC 3.9	Advocate in Nonadjudicative Proceedings
RPC 4.1	Truthfulness in Statements to Others
RPC 4.2	Communication with Person Represented by Counsel
RPC 4.3	Dealing with Unrepresented Person; Employee of Organization
RPC 4.4	Respect for Rights of Third Persons
RPC 5.1	Responsibilities of Partners, Supervisory Lawyers, and Law Firms
RPC 5.2	Responsibilities of a Subordinate Lawyer
RPC 5.3	Responsibilities Regarding Nonlawyer Assistance
RPC 5.4	Professional Independence of a Lawyer
RPC 5.5	Lawyers Not Admitted to the Bar of this State and the Lawful Practice of Law

TABLE OF CONTENTS

RPC 5.6	Restrictions on Right to Practice
RPC 6.1	Voluntary Public Interest Legal Service
RPC 6.2	Accepting Appointments
RPC 6.3	Membership in Legal Services Organization
RPC 6.4	Law Reform Activities Affecting Client Interests
RPC 6.5	Nonprofit and Court-Annexed Limited Legal Service Programs
RPC 7.1	Communications Concerning a Lawyer's Service
RPC 7.2	Advertising
RPC 7.3	Personal Contact with Prospective Clients
RPC 7.4	Communication of Fields of Practice and Certification
RPC 7.5	Law Firm Names and Letterheads
RPC 8.1	Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters
RPC 8.2	Judicial and Legal Officials
RPC 8.3	Reporting Professional Misconduct
RPC 8.4	Misconduct
RPC 8.5	Disciplinary Authority; Choice of Law
	Attorney Advertising Guideline 1
	Attorney Advertising Guideline 2
	Attorney Advertising Guideline 3
	Attorney Advertising Guideline 4
	CONVERSION TABLE NO. 1
RULE 1:20	DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS OF THE BAR
Rule 1:20-1	Disciplinary Jurisdiction; Annual Fee and Registration
Rule 1:20-2	Office of Attorney Ethics
Rule 1:20-3	District Ethics Committees; Investigations
Rule 1:20-4	Formal Pleadings
Rule 1:20-5	Prehearing Procedures
Rule 1:20-6	Hearings
Rule 1:20-7	Additional Rules of Procedure
Rule 1:20-8	Priority of Disciplinary Matters
Rule 1:20-9	Confidentiality; Access to and Dissemination of Disciplinary Information
Rule 1:20-10	Discipline by Consent
Rule 1:20-11	Temporary Suspension
Rule 1:20-11A	Suspension of License to Practice Law for Failure to Support Dependents
Rule 1:20-11B	Suspension of License to Practice Law for Failure to Repay Student Loans
Rule 1:20-12	Incapacity and Disability
Rule 1:20-13	Attorneys Charged with or Convicted of Crimes
Rule 1:20-14	Reciprocal Discipline and Disability Proceedings
Rule 1:20-15	Disciplinary Review Board
Rule 1:20-15A	Final Disciplinary Determinations; Sanctions
Rule 1:20-16	Action by the Supreme Court
Rule 1:20-17	Reimbursement of Disciplinary Costs

ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

- Rule 1:20-18 Supervision of Disciplined Attorney
- Rule 1:20-19 Appointment of Attorney-Trustee to Protect Clients' Interest
- Rule 1:20-20 Future Activities of Attorney Who Has Been Disciplined or Transferred to Disability Inactive Status
- Rule 1:20-21 Reinstatement After Final Discipline
- Rule 1:20-21A Readmission After Disbarment
- Rule 1:20-22 Resignation Without Prejudice
- Rule 1:20-23 Release of Restrained Funds in Attorney Accounts

APPENDIX B ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES OF THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY ETHICS..... 1317

- Guideline No. 1. Ethics and Fee Committee File Numbers and Reports
- Guideline No. 2 Specialization of Members
- Guideline No. 3 Initial Processing of Grievances
- Guideline No. 4 Single Member Assignments of Multiple Ethics Grievances Against the Same Attorney
- Guideline No. 5 Assignment of Single Ethics Grievance Against Multiple Attorneys to Same Committee Member
- Guideline No. 6 Designated Investigator in Certain Cases
- Guideline No. 7 Ethics Grievances Against Committee Members and Secretaries
- Guideline No. 8 Ethics Grievances by Defendants in Criminal Matters in Certain Cases
- Guideline No. 9 Ethics Grievances Relating to Civil Litigation
- Guideline No. 10 Timetable for Preliminary Investigations
- Guideline No. 11 Timetable and Method of Rendering Hearing Panel Reports
- Guideline No. 12 Service in Disciplinary and Fee Arbitration Proceedings
- Guideline No. 13 Assignment of Counsel for Indigent Respondents
- Guideline No. 14 Subpoenas
- Guideline No. 15 Discovery in Ethics Matters
- Guideline No. 16 Extensions of Time, Adjournments and Continuances
- Guideline No. 17 Application for Special Masters to Serve as Ethics Hearing Panel
- Guideline No. 18 Ethics Dismissal Notifications
- Guideline No. 19 Prosecutors' Duty to Report
- Guideline No. 20 Transfer of Ethics and Fee Matters
- Guideline No. 21 Resignation With Prejudice
- Guideline No. 22 Resignation Without Prejudice
- Guideline No. 23 Future Activities of Attorney Who Has Been Disciplined

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Guideline No. 24	Request for Fee Arbitration	
Guideline No. 25	Stipulation of Settlement and Arbitration Determination	
Guideline No. 26	Fee Arbitration Determination Transmittal Letters	
Guideline No. 27	Construction and Relaxation of Guidelines	

APPENDIX C STATE OF THE ATTORNEY DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM REPORT	1335
--	-------------

APPENDIX D ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL ETHICS—INDEX TO OPINION....	1419
--	-------------

§ D:1	Introduction	
§ D:2	Index to ACPE opinions	
§ D:3	ACPE rules of court	

Table of Laws and Rules

Table of Cases

Index